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Rural Information Center

JANUARY**UPDATE****1993**

National Agricultural Library

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Beltsville, MD 20705

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NAL RENEWS INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH POLICY

NAL and the Office of Rural Health Policy of the Department of Health and Human Services renewed an interagency agreement extending RIC's operation of the RICHS health component for five years.

RICHS is a clearinghouse for information on a broad range of rural health topics, including health service delivery, personnel, policy, services utilization, financing, and the health status of rural Americans. The RICHS service targets users interested in rural health issues, especially health care professionals, researchers, extension agents, educators, all levels of government officials and health-related groups.

Since its inception in October, 1990, RICHS staff has expanded from one to four health information professionals. Over the past two years, the staff included in its services electronic access to current health funding announcements, conference notices, and other timely information available on the ALF bulletin board. The electronic bulletin board allows easy access, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to current information in the field of health care and other rural topics at 301-504-5496.

SENATOR BOB KERREY RECEIVES RIC/RICHS OVERVIEW

Patricia John, RIC Coordinator, provided an overview of RIC services, specialized resources,

and electronic bulletin board activities to Senator Bob Kerrey (Nebraska) and members of his staff in his Washington office this December.

Senator Kerrey is especially interested in electronic technology, telecommunications, electronic networking and information super-highways, and information access for rural and urban citizens.

NAL staff also provided overviews on NAL's participation in USDA's plant genome activities

and electronic information networking via INTERNET. Senator Kerrey and staff also received demonstrations on various electronic technology currently being utilized at NAL.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

Patricia John gave a RIC presentation on November 20 at the Conference on the Future of Rural and Small Public Libraries held in Phoenix, Arizona, November 19-21.

Terri Brown, RICHS Health Librarian, provided an ALF presentation for the Bureau of Health Professions in Rockville, Maryland on December 3.

THREE JOIN RIC STAFF

Mark Cyzyk joined the RICHS staff part-time as a technical assistant. He earned a B.A. in philosophy and Asian studies from Towson State University in 1986, an M.A. in philosophy from Temple University, Philadelphia in 1988, and an M.L.S. from the University of Maryland in 1991. He taught English composition and philosophy at Temple University and Catonsville Community



College in Maryland and is presently employed, in addition to his position at RIC, as the Assistant Librarian at Capital College in Laurel, Maryland.

Melanie Gardner joined RIC as a Social Science Librarian. Ms. Gardner earned a B.S. in Special Education from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia in 1977 and an M.L.S. from the University of Maryland in 1985. She worked for the University of Maryland as Assistant Project Director and Project Cataloger for the Maryland State Newspaper Project (part of the U.S. Newspaper Program); for Bowie State University as Assistant Director for Administrative Service and Special

Collections; and prior to coming to RIC, she worked for NAL in the cataloging unit.

Cindy Roberts, a new RICHS Health Information Specialist, graduated from the University of Maryland in 1991 with an M.S. in Human Nutrition and previously graduated from the University of Texas with a B.A. in Anthropology and Linguistics. Before coming to RIC, she worked two years as a Nutrition Information Specialist in the NAL Food and Nutrition Information Center. She has also worked at the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline, the USDA Human Nutrition Information Service, and the ARS Human Nutrition Studies Facility.

**FY93 RURAL INFORMATION
CENTER ANALYSIS**

- User location
- Rural topics
- Affiliation

**STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC.
SUBMITTING HIGHEST NUMBER OF
REQUESTS**

Illinois.....	9%
District of Columbia	6%
Maryland & Ohio (5% each).....	10%
Missouri, Pennsylvania & Texas (4% each)	12%
California, Florida, Maine, North Carolina, Virginia & Wisconsin (3% each)	18%
Alabama, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Oregon (2% each).....	24%
All Others (26 states, 1 territory, 8 foreign countries)	21%

BREAKDOWN OF RURAL QUESTIONS

Health Services	48%
Economic Viability.....	35%
Quality of Life	11%
Local Government Service.....	5%
Leadership	1%

AFFILIATION BREAKDOWN

Heath Care Professionals, Organizations, State & Local Health Offices, etc.....	17%
Individuals	16%
State & County Extension Service; Universities & Other Educational Institutions (14% each).....	28%
USDA Officials & Businesses (7% each).....	14%
Economic Development & Community Organizations	6%
Local Officials, Federal Officials (non-USDA) & Libraries (4% each).....	12%
Special Interest Groups	3%
Congress & State Officials (2% each)	4%